

In the claims:

~~Strikethrough~~ is deleted text. Highlight is added text.

Please amend claims 1,2,3, 4 and 7 as follows:

1. **(Currently Amended)** For use in a permutation lock, the combination of a bottom tumbler having a ~~and~~ nose portion ~~element~~ and a knob and dial element having a knob portion and a dial portion:

the knob portion of the knob and dial element defining an axially extending female recess, the recess being partly defined by a circumferential surface and the recess having a plurality of radially varying formations symmetrically disposed around the circumferential surface of the recess; and

the nose portion of the bottom tumbler ~~and nose element~~ comprising an axially extending male nose, the nose having a plurality of radially varying formations symmetrically disposed around the circumferential surface on the nose, the nose being adapted to fit within and engage the ~~knob and dial~~ recess defined in the knob portion of the knob and dial element in any one of a finite plurality of angularly spaced apart positions.

2. **(Currently Amended)** For use in a permutation lock, the combination of a bottom tumbler having a ~~and~~ nose portion ~~element~~ and a knob and dial element having a knob portion and a dial portion defining a recess:

the knob portion of the knob and dial element comprising an axially extending female recess, the female recess being partly defined by a circumferential surface, the recess having a plurality of flats disposed symmetrically around the recess circumferential surface ~~of the recess~~; and

the nose portion of the bottom tumbler ~~and nose element~~ comprising an axially extending male nose, the nose having a ~~an equal~~ plurality of flats disposed symmetrically around the circumferential surface of the nose and being adapted to fit within and engage the knob and

dial portion recess in any one of ~~a~~ an equal plurality of angularly spaced apart positions which is equal to the number of positions.

3. **(Currently Amended)** The combination according to claim 2 wherein eight flats are formed on the knob and dial recess and a corresponding eight flats are formed on the nose of the bottom tumbler and nose element

4. **(Currently Amended)** The combination according to claim 1 wherein the ~~identically shaped~~ radially varying formations formed on the circumferential surface of the knob and dial recess and radially varying formation formed on the circumferential surface on the nose of the bottom tumbler and nose element are identically shaped.

7. **(Currently Amended)** The combination according to claim 1 further including means for permanently affixing the knob and dial recess to the tumbler nose in any one of said finite plurality of angularly spaced positions.

Claims 5, 6, 8, 9 and 10 are not being amended at this time.